

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 116

Senators Moss, Damoose, Geiss, Polehanki, Theis and Wojno offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to recognize May 5-6, 2024, as Holocaust
2 Remembrance Day.

3 Whereas, The horrors of the Holocaust should never be
4 forgotten. The Holocaust was the state-sponsored systematic
5 persecution and annihilation of European Jewry by Nazi Germany and
6 its collaborators from 1933-1945; and

7 Whereas, The Holocaust resulted in the extermination of six
8 million Jews and their potential decedents. The world's Jewish
9 population was reduced by one-third; and

10 Whereas, Poland, home to the largest Jewish community before
11 World War II, lost 90 percent of its Jewish population. Greece,

1 Yugoslavia, Hungary, Lithuania, Bohemia, the Netherlands, Slovakia,
2 and Latvia each lost more than 70 percent of their Jewish
3 population; and

4 Whereas, Millions more suffered grievous oppression and death
5 under Nazi tyranny based on their religion, including Catholic
6 priests, Christian pastors, and Jehovah's Witnesses; their national
7 origin, including Poles, Soviets, Ukrainians and Sorbs; their
8 ethnicity and culture, including the Romani people; their political
9 beliefs, including courageous resisters and government dissidents;
10 their physical appearance, including those with disabilities; and
11 their sexual orientation and gender identity; and

12 Whereas, The same conspiracies, hatred, and acts of cruelty
13 against Jews still persist today. On October 7, 2023, 1,200 Jews
14 and others in Israel were slaughtered and hundreds more were taken
15 hostage, including survivors of the Holocaust. This was the single
16 most violent event targeting Jews since 1945 and unleashed public
17 displays of Jewish hatred not seen in generations; and

18 Whereas, In 2023, The Anti-Defamation League (ADL) reported
19 that antisemitic incidents increased 140 percent, including an
20 increase in assaults by 45 percent, harassment by 184 percent, and
21 acts of vandalism by 69 percent. This data amounts to the highest
22 level of antisemitism in the 45 years these incidents have been
23 tracked, as well as a significant increase over 2022 which set the
24 previous record for antisemitic incidents; and

25 Whereas, The history of the Holocaust must instruct the moral
26 and ethical responsibilities of individuals, societies, and
27 government when confronting antisemitism. It serves as an important
28 reminder of what can happen when we allow bigotry, hatred, and
29 indifference to enter and conquer our societies in moments of peril

1 for Jewish populations. These lessons must not expire; and
2 Whereas, The state of Michigan, through PA 170 of 2016,
3 requires that the social studies curriculum for grades 8 to 12
4 includes age- and grade-appropriate instruction about genocide so
5 students learn about past atrocities, factually and
6 comprehensively. This education provides future generations the
7 tools to ensure the evils in history are not repeated; now,
8 therefore, be it

9 Resolved by the Senate, That the members of this legislative
10 body recognize May 5-6, 2024, as Holocaust Remembrance Day; and be
11 it further

12 Resolved, That in honor of the victims of the Holocaust, the
13 survivors, and their liberators, the citizens of Michigan should
14 reflect upon this terrible event and strive to overcome hatred and
15 intolerance through both learning and remembrance.